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# Victoria Street Newz

## October 2007

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Vol. 4 No. 7

## Justice, or Just Us?

### The Right To Sleep

*excerpted from David Arthur Johnston's Journal*

St. Ann's update - Aug. 7th, 2007

It may seem a bit convoluted, so for simplicity's sake I will say that regardless of all the court work I am about to describe, there will be action soon (before the end of September).

Alrighty. The Charter Challenge that is scheduled for September 4th is part of a defense against an injunction that the city put up against the tent-city that was in Cridge Park (Blanshard and Humboldt- beside St. Ann's Academy) in the fall of 2005. Recently, the city has also applied for a permanent injunction on Cridge Park for 5 reasons that do not broach the reason for the Charter Challenge (the 5 reasons have to do with subsequent damage from tent-city, possession of weapons, chattel, I believe, and something about interfering with 'enjoyment' of the park... all are along these lines), which is to define if it is lawful to 'prohibit houseless people from engaging in essential life sustaining activities in public space when they have no other viable alternative' and to determine if the City of Victoria's Bylaws deprive the houseless of their 'right to liberty and security of the person.'

The lawyers and I presume that if the city is successful in getting this injunction they would not feel compelled to continue with the previous injunction process and drop it (and, subsequently, the Charter Challenge).

I sometimes conject a miracle. That a judge will see the scope of this ruling, that he or she will have before them the ability to solve the Canadian 'affordable housing crisis' almost overnight... and mayhaps, with the urging of the court, the city might be compelled to assist (washrooms, and the like... ).

In time, I have full intention of raising a family in this situation, living in tent-cities that evolve from seeming chaos into an obvious example of divine order. There is too much at stake to not happily risk losing everything. Freedom.

PS: there may also be action after the initiation of tent-city because some of the deceived-with-guns will tell outside-people that the only place they can go is tent-city- this will not be accepted. The idea is to presume innocence and the tent-city will be a loving support for those who feel inspired to use it (as we muddle through all the instances of flailing drunks and agent provocateurs).

Monday, Aug. 13th, 2007

The judge denied the city's application for a permanent injunction and ordered the city to pay 'costs' to the lawyers (Catherine and Irene) for wasting their time.

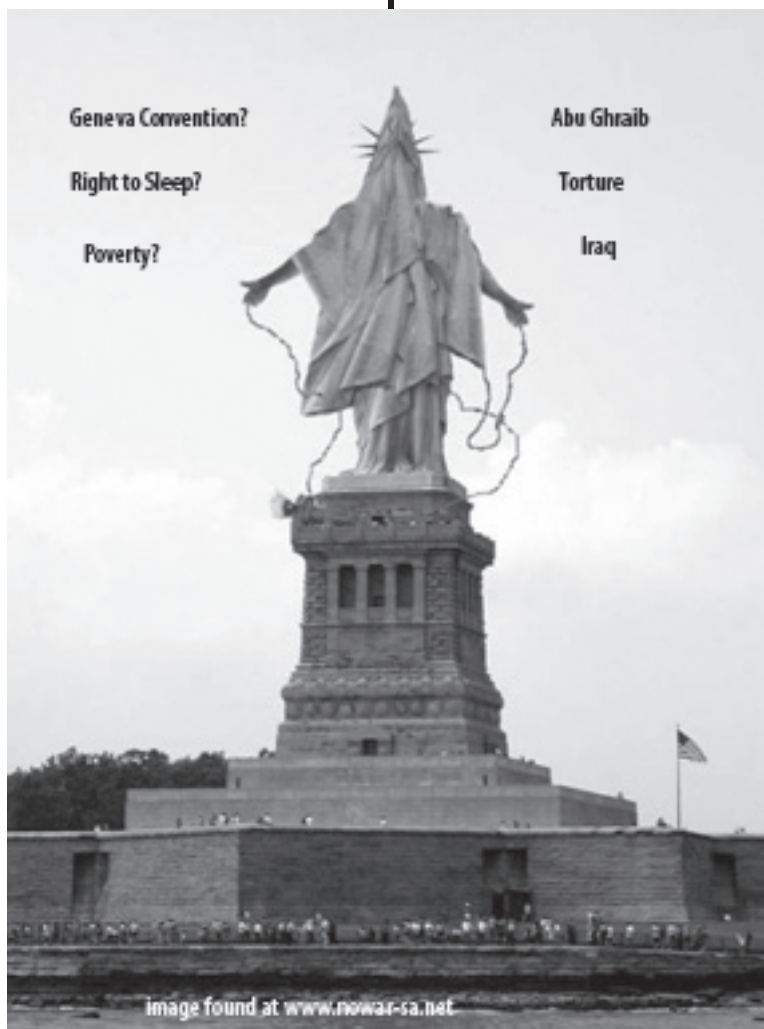
The Charter Challenge is still set to go on Sept. 4th and all the hubbub today made me think that the courts would like to see this settled so it won't waste any more of their time...

Wednesday, Sept. 5th

Went well. Noticeable moments. Irene was lawyering perfectly. Bruce Jordan,  
*continued on page 3*

### NATO GENERALS: FRIENDS OR FOES?

*by Bo Filter*



Twenty-six NATO generals were in Victoria, September 7-9th, to strategize their next moves. They tried coming to Victoria in 2001 but the meeting was cancelled due to planned demonstrations and security costs. This time they decided to come in secret, but the peace community found out about the summit quickly scrambled to mount an action.

**So who is NATO and why all the fuss?**

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was created on 4 April 1949. It was sold to the public as defence, while some critics charged that NATO was offensive by design. It has 26 member states including Canada. With the ending of the cold war, NATO should have been disbanded. Instead it re-invented itself as a constabulary force, a self-appointed global police with the right to interfere in the internal politics of any country. By acting unilaterally and without United Nation sanction, NATO is clearly on the offensive.

The corporate funded media boast of how NATO is freeing the oppressed people of Afghanistan, Iraq and Yugoslavia. This is understandable given that NATO is a huge military establishment with huge taxpayer budgets and principle shares in the corporate media. As usual, a large portion of a politically sleepy public will nod their heads in appreciation, "Thank God for NATO," and that will be the end of the story.

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# About Street Newz

“Building Bridges  
within our Downtown Community”

Coordinator: Janine Bandcroft  
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Contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz coalition and vendors, by reading information that informs you directly about poverty issues, and by working for progressive, peaceful, non-violent change.

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ext 0137**

**[streetnewz@islandnet.com](mailto:streetnewz@islandnet.com)  
[relativenewz.ca](http://relativenewz.ca)**

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## JUST ANOTHER RANT

Have you been following the absolutely criminal and horrendous situation in New Orleans, where the poor and dispossessed have been raped, used for target practice, left in the streets to die, their houses stolen, their lives destroyed - not from the hurricane, but from the wrath of authoritarian violence that followed, and continues to this day? Do you really believe there's no way that could ever happen here?

There's no question the earth's climate is undergoing dramatic changes. We've been relatively lucky so far (though last winter's storms were big time scary), but there's no way to predict the future. I'm not trying to fear-monger, I'm trying to be realistic and put my experiences inside a Victoria courtroom on September 10th, 2007 into some larger perspective.

It's kind of like this. Imagine your kids return home from their first day of school, and tell you that half the teachers didn't really want to be there. They had no course outline, no prepared lessons, no planned examinations leading to graduation. Instead of preparing to teach, they'd spent the entire summer building sand castles at the beach (and signing the necessary documents to ensure proper ownership), and they weren't ready for the school year because they didn't really believe it would happen. Okay, maybe some of the kids are happy about this, but not the parents who've bought school supplies and built their own lives around an understanding that this school thing would be proceeding as scheduled. Those teachers who actually did their homework and are ready to go are not happy to learn they've got to reschedule their lives around those who've chosen to pretend that school would just go away if they waited long enough.

That's what's going on with the historical, precedent setting, Charter Challenge - the Right to Sleep, the David Johnston project, the City vs. The Homeless - or whatever you want to call it. It all began a couple years ago ... well, really, it all began the first time our nomadic ancestors found themselves up against those who claimed ownership of the land and its resources.

In this particular case there are two 'teams' - those who wish to uphold the colonialist tradition of 'finders keepers losers weepers,' hoping the ever increasing homeless population and their claims to human rights will just go away, and then there are those who, for whatever reason, find themselves living outside the dominant culture and wanting to shape a reality where nobody is punished for the choice to decline the box and the mortgage. Or maybe they have no choice, maybe they're realistic enough to accept that they just don't have what it takes (the smarts, the greed, the physical ability to work two or more minimum wage jobs, the desire to go head over heels

### OPINION:

#### On That List of Things to Do — Stopping Cluster Bombs *by George Simich*

Solving hunger and poverty, ending war, eliminating nuclear weapons, curing disease, ending state and individual terrorism all form part of that list of things to do; that list must also include the banning of cluster bombs.

Civilian casualties of cluster bombs both during and after the conflicts in Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan has created a sense of urgency among civil society, non-governmental organizations, most member states of the United Nations, and national governments to stop the predictable suffering caused by this weapon.

Cluster bombs include cargo containers and bomblets (aka submunitions), delivered to their targets by aircraft or artillery. After deployment the canister opens in mid-air, dispersing hundreds to thousands of bomblets over the target area; although designed to explode on impact, they often fail to do so, leaving the area lethally littered. By having a wide area of effect or "footprint," cluster bombs harm civilians long after a conflict has ended. Proponents of these munitions argue that civilian deaths remain within tolerable limits; however, this logic merely acknowledges that no matter how many civilians die, the number will always be within tolerable limits.

These unexploded munitions explode when children play with them or when people hit them with farming tools. Some weapons experience failure rates of up to 30 per cent, resulting in potentially millions of duds left after a conflict. According to the UN, during the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, Israeli released up to four million submunitions over southern Lebanon; an estimated one million duds remain. Of the 360 million submunitions dropped since their invention, 33 million bomblets remain as unexploded munitions.

In February 2007, 49 nations met in Oslo, Norway; 46 of these nations declared their support for a new treaty (to be concluded in 2008) that prohibits the use, transfer, and production of cluster bombs. A further 30 countries declared their support following a meeting in Lima, Peru, in May, bringing the total of countries in support of a new treaty to 76. The Oslo Declaration outlines a process very similar to the Canadian-led Ottawa Process of 1996-1997 that culminated in the Landmine Ban Treaty, also known as the Ottawa Treaty. There are far too few

into post-secondary educational debt, the inclination to participate in an economy that's destroying the planet) to earn the kind of money one needs to own the box and the mortgage, and they're trying to forge ahead in a peaceful, simple, earth friendly way.

Some might say that those who can't afford to live on this island paradise should just go elsewhere - that's precisely the attitude that's ruling New Orleans. Not only is it unspeakably arrogant and elitist, it's increasingly impossible to find anywhere to go (though I hear Saskatchewan remains affordable, for those inclined towards land ownership).

So these two teams - let's call them team L and team M (A and B being currently assigned elsewhere) - show up for school. Team L doesn't really want to be there. They don't see the point. They've received binders full of documents, affidavits, but they're really not interested and they'd rather team M would just go away, or die, or something. Team M believe this is so important they've taken time away from their paid work, they've scheduled their entire professional lives around this. They care that people are suffering and dying in the streets so they've prepared the documents, they've done their homework, and they're ready to talk about the Right to Sleep and Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They're even prepared to lose, but they're hoping their argument - that the numbers of homeless are increasing and the number of shelter beds are not, therefore where are people to go and is it really appropriate to punish them for attempting to protect themselves - will be taken seriously.

I'm with team M all the way, and I'm willing to wager that all the Street Newz vendors and board of directors and supporters are there too. We, any of us, could find ourselves without housing anytime because of any number of circumstances. We do not want a police state. We don't want Dick Cheney's Halliburton to arrive, after a natural disaster, and 'rebuild' our city for those who, they decide, deserve to be there, while the rest are used for target practice. We don't want to be arrested and prosecuted for trying to sleep outside, and we don't want that to happen to anyone else either. We realize that an injustice to one is an injustice to all, that there's more to this life than just selfishly proceeding as if nobody is suffering needlessly.

If you don't believe it could ever get so bad, or that it isn't that bad, check out DemocracyNow.org and listen to the stories from New Orleans. Tune in to CFUV (democracy now airs weekdays at noon). Talk to some homeless or disabled or low income people. Do your homework. Think about it.

times in history when the international community collectively takes the bold step, by proactively asserting its responsibility and its right to stop an ongoing crisis. Banning cluster bombs provides an opportunity to take another bold step.

So, what is Canada doing to support this historic new initiative? At the Oslo Conference, Canada supported the Oslo Declaration, an important first step. But Canada, the nation that spearheaded the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty and a country seen as a leader on humanitarian issues, should lead the world in realizing this goal. In order to galvanize that will Mines Action Canada (MAC) is collecting signatures on a petition calling on the Government of Canada to lead the negotiations for an international law on cluster munitions.

MAC's petition calls on Canada to lead the movement to ban cluster munitions, including an immediate moratorium on the production, transfer, procurement, and use of cluster munitions until this treaty is in place. Canadian leadership will speak volumes to countries still wavering; these actions are not difficult for Canada. These actions require no new resources or radical changes in philosophy or policy.

A moratorium would simply put "official language" to what Canada is doing anyway; Canada has never used cluster munitions and we are currently destroying our stockpiles. Moreover, it is consistent with Canadian values that Canada takes a strong moral and legal stance towards preventing predictable humanitarian harm to civilians. The evidence is irrefutable; the time is now. If we act, we can avert a new humanitarian crisis. Canadians and civilians everywhere must speak up; we must protect each other from our rabid dogs of war. Ordinary people must make an extraordinary impact—cluster munitions have to go.

Go to [www.minesactioncanada.org](http://www.minesactioncanada.org) to stop the carnage. The petition will be submitted on December 3rd, 2007— the 10th anniversary of the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty. What better way to celebrate 10 years of history in the making than by doing it again? Civil society changed the world once when we pushed world leadership to ban landmines; we are close to history again.





the city’s attorney, again brought up my ‘choice’ to be homeless and how it made me unworthy of seeking or getting justice. I wonder if it has occurred to them that, in a world were choice would be possible, every person got to where they were through the ‘choices’ they have made... so the question is do we criminalize ‘lack of discipline?’ or do we start shining with the discipline we would like to see? May we forgive them in their insane belief that order can be maintained through malicious behaviour.

Friday, Sept. 7th, 2007

The court denied the city its ‘discontinuance.’ The trial will begin with the city asking for an adjournment (because 2 years hasn’t been enough time to prepare a defense). It is hard to say what the judge will do. He could give the adjournment for any amount of time, or not give it at all and the case will begin in earnest the next day. He could give the city an ‘ultimatum’ where they can be ready to go now or accept being ordered by the court to make the provision that is asked... or 10000 pianos might fall out of the sky- it really is hard to say...

Monday, Sept. 10th, 2007

Adjourned until Wednesday ... a bit hard for me in considering that, officially, the judge is just beginning (mostly- he is the fellow that released me on bail after that last fast) whereas we’ve (and I’ve) been at it so long. If they continue with the summary trial then it looks like a couple of months, if they want a full trial with witnesses and such it may take much more time (I can’t wait that long, it is madness, truly. Everyone knows what is going on- the city thinks it is acceptable to do really horrible things in the name of order and the ‘crown’ highly backs them in this).

Because it is potentially a law changing thing the attorney general’s office is getting involved, seemingly on the side of the city. It may be good that the crown is getting more involved as it will make them more culpable when the ruling comes down. We, absolutely, have evidence of the ‘crown’s’ bias.

Apart from the impossibility of a judge ordering the city to make way for a temporary tent-city, I hope being a named defendant might encure more weight in the setting of provision until the challenge is heard. Mainly in the name of the city putting me, personally, up (without the use of money. Maybe I could stay in Alan Lowe’s garage...) Maybe the judge could order the city to do that on the validity of my involvement with the case (I cannot do anything that doesn’t take my involvement into account; I can’t leave or put myself in a position where getting to the courthouse for this case is impossible). Then it is not a question of why I am a defendant, but more, the city obstructing me from participating in a trial saying that I don’t have the right to believe what I truly believe. Namely, that the world needs to be saved, and will be saved through the acknowledging of the sin of pride. Maybe it should be pointed out that even if I am crazy the city (and the ‘crown’) are still being really bad people.

Wednesday, Sept. 12th, 2007

The judge’s hands tied. Initiative will not come from the court. Case adjourned until January at earliest. Now that the Attorney General is giving full backing to the city I have no qualm with going back to St. Ann’s, so I intend

to- because it is a practical spot for a permanent community and apparently there is no authority to tell me not to.

Sept 11th - ‘Homeless By Choice’: response to Times Colonist article about me (Sept 10 07)

I feel a need to clarify a few things written about me and this campaign to determine the ‘right to sleep.’

It is often said, by those who think they have much to lose, that I am homeless by choice. I have to pause for a moment and consider what that means. There was a point where I believed it was a choice, to love truth with the apparent intensity that I do, until the truth that I loved so much made it plain that there was no choice involved.

It has been my love of truth that led me to no longer use money. It was my love of truth that ostracized me from normalcy (in its revealing of why pride is sin). It was my love of truth that showed me there is no evil. It was my love of truth that made it impossible to hate all the instigational police, security guards and parks workers, even though they work so hard to raise ire... and my love of truth led me to the one truth that most everyone thinks is insane, the truth of all motion being ruled by fate.

So, on one level, no, I am not homeless by choice. On another, I ‘chose’ to have integrity and was exposed to the reasons for, and unsustainable nature of, capitalism. Or, mayhaps, I am completely mad- would that be good reason to put fertilizer where I sleep, or to hire a security guard to stand above my head, literally, for 8 hours a night for 20 nights with the express purpose of not letting me sleep, or to drive me out of city limits 6 times, or to steal 4 years of my life in the hopes that I will just go away before everyone sees how much the city and the ‘crown’ have no clue how to presume innocence? As far as being discredited, I invite my detractors to do their worst.

The article mentions how I am going to take this fight to other municipalities “such as Oak Bay and Saanich.” Successful completion of this challenge means every municipality in Canada, that has any ‘like’ bylaw, will be open to be challenged without obstruction. If I survive this challenge I will be too busy to be any more personally involved in any of the other tent-cities that pop up. As far as sleeping on anyone’s front lawn, if you are a delusional monster responsible for genocide and promotion of eternal slavery, ya, I will totally be in your face.

There was no need to mention my father- we don’t talk much because we don’t have news to share or news gets delivered other ways.

And lastly, as far as being ‘God’s people’, God’s people know better than to support anything that believes in lies, especially the lie of pride, and if it means the fall of capitalism and subsequent ‘tribulation’ of a world that has over-populated itself a hundredfold, then may we keep our courage and patience even after everything has turned itself to the whirlwind.

Sincerely,  
David Arthur Johnston  
www.angelfire.com/apes/hatrackman  
Journal of the Occupation of St. Ann’s Academy (Victoria, BC, Canada)-  
www.angelfire.com/apes/hatrackman/welcome.htm  
Crimes of Necessity-  
www.loveandfearlessness.com

Notwithstanding, there are a growing number of disillusioned people who are looking, listening, and reading about the deeper issues surrounding NATO. They are learning that NATO is on the offence, and that it’s the single largest resource guzzler on the planet. The countries they attack have key resources or are key pathways to energy-rich regions.

The people and their governments in the target countries are a nuisance and must be cleared out of the way. This is raw military parlance, which I often heard while working in a U.S. top-secret war room for over two years. This explains fundamentally why many civilian targets were bombed in Yugoslavia in 1999.

Yugoslavia had attacked no one, but was standing up to Washington’s demand for control of Yugoslavia’s economy. Unilaterally and without jurisdiction and without United Nation sanction, the U.S. led NATO into an illegal all-out assault. Yugoslavia was bombed for 78 days and nights with a particular focus on its economic infrastructure. This well developed country was destroyed, re-partitioned to Washington’s liking, releasing target resources for the taking. Indiscriminate bombing and the indiscriminate killing of civilians with the use of phosphorus and cluster bombs nullified NATO’s claim of fighting a humanitarian war for freedom and democracy.

In similar fashion, bombing Iraq and Afghanistan back to the stone ages has not been damage enough for NATO. They decided to use nuclear weapons, U-238 called depleted uranium (DU), dirty bombs, which have a toxic half-life of 4.5 billion years. When DU burns, it oxidizes into nano-particles about .1-.01 microns in size. As a fine invisible dust DU has been blown by winds across the planet. None of us know how much of this we are breathing in at this very moment.

The effect of releasing DU into the global ecosystem is already showing catastrophic effects. The gene pool of all life forms is being damaged. Strangely deformed human infants are being born and stillborn, not only to families in the target countries but also to the returning NATO soldiers, as one element of “Gulf War Syndrome” and “Balkan Syndrome.” The global effect, according to Japanese Physicist Dr. Katsuma Yagasaki, has been the equivalent of setting off

400,000 Nagasaki atomic bombs. The question now is, “Have we all been handed a death sentence?”

This question is so critical to the whole of humanity that an International Criminal Tribunal was held in June of 2000 in New York City. NATO leaders were found guilty of 19 separate War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and Crimes Against Peace, including the illegal use of depleted uranium, which was outlawed by the United Nations in 1999. The verdict regarding DU was “omnicide” meaning “the extermination of life, contamination of air, water and food resources and the irreversible alteration of the genetic code of all living organisms including plant life as a direct consequence of the use of radioactive munitions...”

Perhaps, not all has been lost. Certainly the NATO plans should not go forward with more DU disbursed into the global atmosphere. Not only should NATO be abolished as recommended by the public tribunal, all top officials should stand trial in the newly formed International Criminal Court (ICC). Canada ratified the ICC in 2000 then passed another bill to make sure that any and all suspected war criminals can be tried by a Canadian federal court for violations committed before the ICC came into force.

The ICC jurisdiction covers the Crime of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, and War Crimes. As defined, NATO could be charged with numerous counts. Naturally, the US-dominated NATO is less than enthusiastic about the creation of the ICC, not wanting to see itself as the target of litigation. In fact, the US has tried to defang the ICC with Article 98 Agreements, another interesting subject.

For now we might say that a new global war has broken out between the world citizenry and unchecked US militarism. The US/NATO militarists want a free hand with immunity from prosecution. Whereas, the people want freedom from secrecy; freedom from contaminated air, water, and genetic mutilation, and instead of immunity, they want justice.

*Bo Filter is a former communications expert who worked in a US Top Secret War Room. He’s also a Social Scientist, Lecturer, and Author: The Cause of Wars and Aggression: Book 1 [www.globaljusticepublishing.com](http://www.globaljusticepublishing.com)*



Local artist Elfrida Schragen has partnered with Rev. Al Tysick of Our Place to help the homeless through funding art. Elfrida is donating her time and talent to paint portraits of street people, with their permission and approval of Our Place, and the final paintings are for sale to the public. The goal is to raise \$20,000 - all funds will go towards transitional housing now under construction, to be opened in the fall. For more information on the Portraits for Our Place Project, visit [www.helpingvictoria.ca](http://www.helpingvictoria.ca).



Remembering Marlene

Dear Janine,

I was greatly shocked and saddened to learn that your long-time James Bay vendor, Marlene, has passed away.

During the time I lived in James Bay, chatting with Marlene outside Thrifty’s was one of the most pleasant parts of shopping at James Bay Square. Despite her many problems and health struggles, Marlene was unfailingly polite and cheerful, and she was always very grateful for the small gifts that I and others gave to try to help her a little bit.

It is truly sickening that governments willingly spend gazillions of dollars on circuses like the 2010 Olympics but won’t spend the relatively small amount that would provide proper care for people in need like Marlene. What a terribly sad reflection on our society! Anyway, Janine, do take care and keep up the great work with ‘Street Newz.’

With warmest best wishes,

Gordon Pollard

Spy vs. Spy

Re: Quebec police admit they infiltrated protest

For my generation, this brings back memories of J. Edgar Hoover’s Vietnam-era program called “COINTELPRO,” which used police infiltrators to goad antiwar protestors to acts of violence. As the French say, “plus que ça change, plus c’est toujours la même chose.”

Mike Wallace

Got to wonder why are Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan and why is our army in Afghanistan to supposedly give these nations democracy, all while thwarting democracy at home. I am of course referring to the summit in Quebec turning it into a police state reminiscence of the FLQ crisis or many American cities in the 60’s. Prosperity and security for who - the big shot politicians and CEO’s that fund their re-elections.

You can bet more open government is not on the agenda.

Andre Mollon

This practice of inserting agents provocateurs goes back to forever. They used this practice against the anarchists of the 19th C., to bust unions in the 1920s and 30s, in Selma, in Seattle and in Vancouver. Peaceful rallies turn violent only when these pricks make it so. Does anyone actually believe what our governments tell us any more? Does anyone in government actually understand what constitutes truth? Apparently, they do not care, nor have they ever cared about truth. Lying f’ing bastards--that’s who runs this country and our so-called democracies.

Peace, George Simich

PS Resistance is not futile.

The Advocate

by W. Robert Arnold

In recent articles in the mainstream media about poverty and homelessness writers seem to be blaming the poverty and homelessness on the fact that people are either mentally ill or addicted to drugs or alcohol. I think they’ve got it backwards.

For some people poverty is a result of being mentally ill or addiction. Foremost, though, I believe that the mental illness and addiction is more a result of the poverty and homelessness. People become poorer as a result of losing their ability to work or just losing their job; and as a result lose their families, their self-esteem and the energy to pull themselves out of the pit.

The fact is that being poor is depressing. Losing everything one has as a result of the poverty is very depressing. Depression is the most common mental illness among the population as a whole; and is epidemic among poor people.

The most common reaction to been depressed all the time is trying to escape it. This is done by escaping reality, which is mental illness or addiction. People cannot bear being poor. It kills the joy in one’s life. The final escape, of course, is suicide. People are dying from poverty, without starving to death.

I would like to see people stop blaming addictions and mental illness for the problem of poverty and homelessness; and address the real problem: the lack of money. Once we focus our attention on this real problem the solution will become obvious.

We don’t need affordable housing. We need people who can afford housing. We need people to be able to afford to live. When people cannot work for what ever reason, we have to give them enough money to live. The real solution to poverty and homelessness; and perhaps to much of the mental illness and addiction that we see in society is a guaranteed adequate income for everyone.

Will Work for Public Relations

I hope the Provincial spin-doctors and mouth-pieces get their act together and deal with the court challenge re: tenting in public areas, we are in a good position to establish landmark legislation which would benefit people across Canada. The Justice system always needs positive p.r. and this is a golden opportunity to demonstrate compassion for homeless citizens.

Ken Frenette



Dear Street Newz

I am 57 years of age and I guess (maybe even considered a senior citizen) and I was out for a morning drive when I encountered one of your street vendors. You will recognize him by the motorized scooter he is in and the small black poodle in his shopping bag (which the door-gee) seems to love.

I just want to say what a fine form of advertising for your “Street Newz.” He was considerate and friendly and made me smile Sunday in front of the view street apartments.

I remember at the time that as he rode away I saw “Street Newz” on his jacket and wished at the time I had any spare change to buy a copy.....

If I had a \$5.00 bill at the time I would have given it to me not necessarily for the paper but the way he brightened up my Sunday morning.

You lucky people to have a vendor such as him!!

Just tell him the guy who gave his doggie a bone wrote in to say “THANK-YOU”

Murray Collins

“Govern” meant ?

I spent 29 years in BC, trying to start a progressive business and incidentally bringing Canada two world championships for human power, one for practical land vehicles and one for boats. For the last 20 of those years, I was greatly handicapped by insomnia-induced anxiety. Although I learned a lot about how to help myself, and made several partial recoveries, I found official help to be an oxymoron. As an inventor, I was a bit crazy anyway, I suppose, but I was also among the poor, easy prey for abuse by many, but by landlords most of all. It was those who drove me to leave BC a year ago, and last week I found that I was finally able to sleep properly again. I have not found any official help here in Saskatchewan, either, but the surrounding craziness is less. BC is delaminating into rich and poor, and the poor are regarded as better dead.

Best, Bob Stuart

For Seniors, By Seniors

Feeling pushed around? Need some help fighting for your rights?

If you are a senior, there is a new service open to you, the Seniors’ Entitlement Service provided by the Greater Victoria Seniors and funded by Ottawa through its New Horizons program for seniors.

Trained volunteer seniors’ advocates staff an office at the Blanshard Community Centre, 901 Kings Road, between Bay and Hillside, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to noon and 1 to 4 pm.

You can phone for an appointment: 388 7696.

The advocates include retired social workers who can help with health care, pensions and housing. SES also has links to legal experts and to a chain of similar offices being set up across B.C. to take on some of the problems once handled by the B.C. Seniors’ Office, which was axed by the Liberals in 2001.

What can they do for you? Help you with problems or go to bat for you with officials who confuse, stall or dismiss you. They also have a library of information useful to seniors. With limited staff and resources, they cannot promise success, but they work on the premise that seniors have rights and are entitled to receive them and be treated with dignity.

And the service is completely free!

Also welcome are seniors who would like to take their training and join the staff in a challenging service. For this, phone Clara at 36- 1068.

It’s for seniors and it’s free!



Not Too Good

by Brian Mason

We in Canada once loved to compare ourselves with our violent, bullying neighbour to the south and believe we were better. A kinder, gentler people we were – even if on the same trajectory. It’s getting harder to feel smug, though.

Comparing ourselves with the United States is a strategy doomed to backfire soon. We are both liberal-capitalist democracies, after all, born of a colonial past, and long profiting on land stolen through violence and treachery from indigenous peoples. As they have Bush, we have Harper: choose your poison.

Those with short memories might think the United States only became really bad during the present seven-year rule of Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld-Rove-Wolfowitz et al. Yet it has a lengthy history of shambolic problem solving on the international stage. Military invasion, the propping up of corrupt dictators, cultural and economic imperialism and clandestine treachery – all dished out with big helpings of arrogance – have been traditional intervention strategies of the United States. Bush has simply taken a dangerous state and made it worse, by launching a few more invasions, expanding the use of torture on political prisoners, and imposing oppressive security measures. But, I digress.

There are better ways of judging whether a country’s actions are good or bad without having to scour the history books looking for examples to avoid or emulate. You can always find a Hitler, or Genghis Khan, a Stalin or a Bush-Cheney; even discover, pleasantly, Chiefs Seattle and Sitting Bull, or the environmentally-oriented Kingdom of Bhutan. (Just as, on an individual level, finding someone “badder” than yourself can provide short-lived personal satisfaction.) This approach, alas, begs the question of what principles to apply in deciding a nation’s moral worthiness.

Now introducing the notion of morality – what is right and wrong behaviour – at the level of nation states might appear unusual. Their sovereignty would seem to raise them above such judgments. But if ethics concerns itself with the evaluation of human conduct, with how human beings ought fundamentally to behave, especially in relation to one another, then it’s a natural fit for nation states. The domestic and foreign policies of a democratic country reflect directly its values, as expressions of the will of its electorate. It can’t be otherwise, not withstanding the “good German” defence. Never forget that enough United Statesians voted for Bush for him to win the presidency, twice – even if a little fraud helped tipped the balance in his favour. And sufficient Canadians voted Conservative to get us Harper.

Do Canada’s recent behaviours and circumstances give any clues to its moral values? Let’s have a look. In dealing with First Nations, we have stalled and obstructed the settlement of land claims for over a century. We have joined an immoral invasion of Afghanistan as part of an occupying NATO force. Canadian soldiers have killed innocent Afghan civilians in their quest for, according to our top general, “murderers and scumbags.” We have facilitated the torture of political prisoners in the case of Maher Arar and possibly of other “terrorist” (sic) suspects as well as of detainees transferred by Canadian soldiers to Afghan officials. We have

abandoned our Kyoto commitments. Canadians’ per capita carbon dioxide emissions are the second highest among “developed” countries. Canada’s level of foreign aid is well below the United Nations target of 0.7% of GNP for “developed” countries. First Nations peoples remain second-class citizens by any measure of social participation and advancement. Our high level of national wealth comes at the expense of poorer people in the majority-world countries – and of the planet’s environment. We are slaves to materialism. Levels of homelessness in Canada have soared. Social welfare programs are crumbling.

Had enough? I go on....

Disparities of wealth among Canadians are huge and growing. A rigid class structure has settled in, led by a tiny, all-powerful corporate elite: we have become an oligarchy. We no longer are mediators and peacekeepers on the international scene, trading the blue beret of a United Nations force for a full-combat, war-making posture. Our nation – with General Rick “We train to kill people” Hillier in command of the forces – has been militarised and placed increasingly on terrorist watch. We are clear-cutting the forests, depleting the oceans of all marketable species, ravaging the land through destructive livestock and other agribusiness practices, and destroying northeast Alberta in a desperate rush to exploit the tar sands. Each year, tens of millions of sentient animals are raised in cruel conditions on Canadian factory farms before being slaughtered for our brief eating pleasures. We routinely torture animals in biomedical laboratories. All our recent political and economic decisions take us straight towards closer association with the most powerful, dangerous and reviled war-mongering bully-state on the planet.

All this just for starters. It’s quite a list. Tell me, would you want these folks for neighbours? Yet it’s us, and a big part of what we have become. Ethics? Morality? They don’t seem to be a consideration. In their place is our growing, insular wish to hold on to what we have, to squeeze every last drop of wealth from an exhausted planet before its resources run completely out or someone else cops them.

Canadians feel simultaneously entitled and embattled, with no sense of organising values. Our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, though it may help deal with same-sex marriage conundrums, hate crimes, and Sunday-shopping statutes, doesn’t seem to shed much light on the big issues of the day. It has not served us well as a national moral compass, at least not if the above list is any indication. Though it’s tempting to believe evil leaks northward across the 49th parallel, it’s actually time to look in the mirror.

What’s needed is the time, place and opportunity to continually assess our society from an ethical perspective. I mean this in the classical Greek sense of seeking the virtuous life. Our future survival depends on moving urgently towards non-hierarchical forms of social organization based on reverence for air, water, land and all life. Let flourish notions of fairness, justice, moderation, balance, limits, peace, and community. Mostly, we need to wise up – now.

*Submitted by Brian Mason, a writer and philosopher who lives in James Bay.*

David Johnston and the Right to Sleep

by Tavis W. Dodds

The nation will have to wait to learn the result of a Supreme Court constitutional challenge against Victoria’s anti-camping bylaw.

The stance of Victoria, and many other cities (Vancouver among them) is that everything within the city limits is private property and sleeping in public-access green space is officially illegal. Supporters of the challenge argue that police move sleepers along but no other options are made available for homeless victims of BC’s current housing crisis. Victoria has responded with the creation of more homeless shelters that are impossible to sleep in.

This hearing will be certainly be of interest to those concerned about poverty, civil liberties, and spiritual freedoms, but, if history is any indication, we may not be able to depend on Canada’s media to provide coverage; papers like The Victoria Times Colonist or The Vancouver Sun and Province have buried the story. The Globe and Mail, before it was consumed by the CHUM/CTV media machine, ran a cartoon with the caption “Should sleeping in public places be illegal?” above the image of police breaking down the doors to a Senate full of sleeping politicians.

Even this brief coverage all but ignores the man who has been a driving force behind the Right to Sleep movement in Victoria, David Arthur Johnston, a homeless man who has refused to move on when the police order him to do so and, as a result, spent several hundred days fasting in prison. “If the constitutional challenge is successful then it means that municipalities across Canada will be able to challenge their own anti-camping/anti-poverty legislations,” says Johnston.

After the BC Liberals took power, David was arrested at the February, 2002, “Camp Campbell” occupation of the legislature grounds. A group of mostly homeless people had lived peacefully for weeks on the legislature lawn. After the arrests the attorney general on both federal and provincial levels admitted they had no evidence to have silenced the legitimate concerns of the campers. That concern-if we are not allowed to be homeless here, where do we go?-goes unanswered to this day.

The general procedure when dealing with homeless is to move them along when they become too visible, too numerous, too comfortable; just move along. David Johnston refused to move. He spent a hundred days in jail for being homeless and defying orders preventing him from sleeping in parks. Police drove him out of town repeatedly, often leaving him out in the rain in winter. The Provincial Capital Commission hired security guards expressly for the purpose of torturing David. Then, after admitting that this plan “fizzled out” and the security guards were more frustrated than David, the cost of the security was given as evidence of David’s guilt. Accusations were made about David’s mental health and when his mother and next of kin flew out from Blackfalls, Alberta to lend her support to David and his cause, she felt the crown insinuated that she had mental health issues because she supported her son’s campaign for the rights of the poor. David fasted over a month in jail and was prepared to die, but nearly forty days into a seven month sentence he was released, promising not to go back to St. Ann’s until after this Charter Challenge.

David refuses to touch money on principle; a spiritual principle well grounded in history, but there are thousands more people without shelter in BC, struggling to find a little place to sleep, twelve square feet, in a part of the world where real estate sells for thousands per square foot. To have no fixed address is not a crime in Canada, but it is treated as a crime and the homeless automatically bear the guilt of a social offence in which they are more victims than perpetrators . People suddenly without homes find rights they had taken for granted now denied them. Our state tortures Canadians every day, and the “Journal of the Occupation of St. Ann’s Academy” by David Johnston documents such torture of a homeless individual. The torture of David is not out of the ordinary in the homeless community; it has become increasingly commonplace in the industrialized world, especially in the urban centers across Western Canada.

In the weeks before the challenge, Victoria made moves to have the injunction against camping replaced in order to keep the Charter Challenge from being heard. The side against the poor needs no help; multitudes of institutions work to protect their own interests and exploit profits from poverty. But who speaks for the homeless if they are not allowed to speak for themselves? It’s obvious after experiencing homelessness first hand that none of the voices paid to speak about the issue of homelessness have any idea what it’s like to be of a criminalized class. The nation of the under-housed has been waiting years for this nine day hearing to discuss protecting the rights of homeless people in Canada, and, like Camp Campbell, Victoria has no authority to silence our call for free human rights. But they are going to do it anyway. Support your local tent city.





Seizure of Backpacks Illegal?

by Rajeewa Wijesinghe

The city of Victoria and other municipalities across Canada have decided that municipalities have the right to enact bylaws that restrict the activities of the homeless. In Victoria, under the “chattels bylaw” (Streets and Traffic Bylaw, s. 74(2)) it is legal for police to seize backpacks from street people. In most cases, these seized backpacks contain all a homeless person owns. A \$100 ticket is issued for the violation, then their backpacks confiscated and impounded. They are returned once the ticket and impound fee is paid. The impound fee varies with the weight of the backpack. Police have said that they allow people to take vital items, such as sleeping bags, before impounding. Still, social agencies are outraged as they spend valuable and scare resources paying the impound fees recovering backpacks. Police say that they are not seizing these backpacks on a whim saying that this is just an effective way of dealing with people who camp on downtown sidewalks. However, the purpose of the chattels bylaw is to keep the sidewalks free from obstruction to allow for appropriate traffic.

Art Farquharson, a part-time constituency assistant to NDP Leader Carole James and an activist with Together Against Poverty has been quoted saying, “It is offensive to us that they indiscriminately seize people’s belongings and force them to find resources which they don’t have to get them back.” He and other social agencies suggest that the city is discriminately using this bylaw to push out the homeless claiming that the enforcement of this chattels bylaw is a reaction to the ineffectiveness of the anti-panhandling bylaw. The anti-panhandling bylaw was intended to stop solicitation near bank machines, bus stops and liquor stores as well as prohibiting “sitting, squatting, kneeling or lying down” on a public sidewalk or street. This bylaw did not have a great impact on the homeless unlike the chattels bylaw.

Advocates of the homeless are not saying that anyone should put their backpacks wherever they want but that everyone who puts an obstruction on the street whether it is a briefcase or a backpack be treated equally. If only the homeless are charged this is discrimination of a distinct group of the population, then there is a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Is it “legal” that the city makes laws that criminalize certain actions when no alternatives exist? Where can street people place their belongings? If the city cannot provide storage facilities, what options are left to the homeless?

The constitutional challenge to another of Victoria’s bylaws that restricts the behaviour of the homeless: the right for people to sleep in public spaces slated for the courts in September. This might change the use of the chattles bylaw. The arguments are similar: Is it illegal to sleep in public if there are not enough community shelters just as is it illegal to place backpacks on the street when the city does not provide alternatives? Charter violation? Time will soon tell.



*PBSC-UVic is a student organization that is not able to give legal advice. This article is intended as legal information only. Should you have a specific legal problem, it is advisable to consult a lawyer. Special thanks to Irene Faulkner of Underhill, Faulkner, Boies-Parker for her assistance. For more information on our organization, please visit: [www.pbsc-uvic.ca](http://www.pbsc-uvic.ca).*

*Do you know your rights under the Canadian Charter? What about your rights as a tenant? Are you curious about how to file complaints against the police?*

*The UVic Chapter of Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) wants to help answer some of your questions about the law. PBSC volunteers will produce a monthly article providing information on a particular legal issue.*

*If you'd like to suggest a topic, please drop ideas off at Street Newz's mailbox at 1027 Pandora Ave. or email us at [pbsc.articles@gmail.com](mailto:pbsc.articles@gmail.com).*

Some Local Events

**Open Dharma**  
Weekly deep relaxation and meditation sessions resume Wednesday, September 19, at 7 pm (sharp!) at the James Bay New Horizons Senior Centre, 234 Menzies (between Simcoe and Michigan). Mats are provided, but please bring a pillow and light blanket. Admission fee \$5. For more information, contact [OpenDharmaBC@yahoo.com](mailto:OpenDharmaBC@yahoo.com)

**Conflict Resolution**  
The Dispute Resolution Centre is offering the Compass Program, a 3 day workshop for individuals with low incomes to learn about conflict and effective ways to deal with it in their daily life. Tuesday, Oct 16 to Thursday, Oct 18, 2007 at St. John the Divine Hall, corner of Balmoral and Quadra. The workshop has a limited number of openings that fill up quickly so please register as soon as possible.  
313-1095 McKenzie Ave., Victoria BC V8P 2L5  
P: 250.383.4412  
E: [office@disputeresolution.bc.ca](mailto:office@disputeresolution.bc.ca)  
W: [www.disputeresolution.bc.ca](http://www.disputeresolution.bc.ca)

Provincial Authorities Get Involved In Right To Sleep Trial

from Rose Henry

BC Supreme Court House – Victoria, BC Canada - September 12, 2007

The BC Attorney General’s office has intervened in the case against homeless people sleeping outside. This means that as many as 20 government staff lawyers will be working on this case on behalf of the BC Premier’s office.  
Based on a City of Victoria bylaw an injunction was requested to end a tent city in Cridge Park in October 2005. This tent city followed 2 others, one on the lawn of the BC Legislature (Camp Campbell) and another in the orchard in front of St. Anne’s Academy. Challenged on a constitutional basis the City of Victoria tried to back out of the case but a BC Supreme Court Judge denied a discontinuation applied for by the City. The Attorney General’s office has requested a postponement claiming they have to get up to speed on the case.

This case has been postponed for 2 years and now will not likely appear in court until Spring 2008.  
Meanwhile homeless people across the nation may have waited long enough. Homeless people in Victoria have been respectful of the court since October 2005 because they were assured that they would have their day in court. Now that the Attorney General’s office is overseeing the case they have asked for another postponement, likely until February 2008.  
The word on the street is that a new tent city will be set up in Victoria on city property or provincial crown land. This is a national debate and it is likely that tent cities will pop up across the nation in solidarity of those struggling for justice in Victoria.

For video updates visit [www.homelessnation.org](http://www.homelessnation.org)



WHERE THERE’S A WILL THERE’S A WAY ....

above - Tim, one of the founders of Portland’s Dignity Village ([dignityvillage.org](http://dignityvillage.org)) which emerged after land was designated for tent city dwellers. Dignity Village is a registered charity, with a 10 year lease on 1.3 acres of land at the city’s recycling yard. An audio interview is at [relativenewz.ca](http://relativenewz.ca).  
below - left: Dignity Village’s welcoming committee and office; and at right a clay/sand/straw dwelling nearing completion.



~ FREE AD SPACE ~

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Announcing the “FREE AD” Classified ad space starting soon in the Victoria Street Newz. If you are in need of an item, or have something free to offer, then please consider using this bridge between those who could use a hand, and those who have bit extra, by running your ad with us.  
The only condition for publication is that the item offered or requested be available at no charge.  
**Due Dates**  
Send ads anytime, to [victoriastreetnewz@hotmail.com](mailto:victoriastreetnewz@hotmail.com). We publish monthly, and will attempt to include everything received up until print time.  
**Limitations**  
We reserve the right to edit, alter or decline ads in the best interest of the community at large, and at our discretion.



How to Use Western Herbal Medicine for Stress

by James Christian, B.Sc., MNIMH, RH, Medical Herbalist

Although modern day living provides many new conveniences, there is still a large portion of the population that suffer from various degrees of stress. But what is stress and how does it affect people’s health?

Basically stress can be described as any outside force that disrupts the internal balance or harmony within the body. These can include relationships (both personal and professional), work conditions and bodily health among others. Living in the city requires the ability to withstand some stress, but when it becomes overwhelming and begins causing physical complaints such as high blood pressure, insomnia, digestive upset and the inability to concentrate and focus, it is indicative that balance needs to be restored within the body.

By nature, stress is not a condition that can be “treated” itself, but rather the body can be given support through the use of healing plants, supplements, relaxation techniques and lifestyle adjustments to work through the stress in a healthy way.

**Herbs to Use**

Herbal Medicine provides us with herbs with various actions that are beneficial in the treatment of stress. Herbalists use plants with adaptogenic, relaxant, adrenal tonic and nervous system restorative actions. Adaptogenic herbs include Eleutherococcus senticosus (Siberian Ginseng) and Withania somnifera (Ashwaghandha) which both effectively help the body adapt and cope with stress. Relaxing herbs are important as they can help calm the mind. Some great herbs for relaxation include Valeriana officinalis (Valerian) and Scutalleria lateriflora (Skullcap). As stress can sometimes lead to an over-use of adrenalin from the body to cope with stress, your adrenal glands (located on top of your kidneys) become exhausted and begin to cause other health problems. Borago officinalis (Borage) is a herb that works well to restore healthy adrenal function. Nervous system tonic herbs are used to help bring balance back to your nervous system and help you function and cope with stress by providing nutrition to nerve cells and restoring healthy cell activity. Herbs that have this action include Avena sativa (Oats) and Stachys officinalis (Wood Betony).

**Lifestyle and Supplements**

One of the most important things to help with lifestyle stress is to examine the circumstances that trigger the stress and see how you can change your lifestyle patterns to minimize them. It is very beneficial to try to incorporate relaxation techniques into your life routine including yoga and meditation. If you feel that you are unable to cope with the stress in your life on your own, you should consult a Counsellor or Psychologist to help work through the issues professionally. Good supplements to use during stressful periods of life include Vitamin A, B-complex, B6 and B12, C, D, E, Magnesium, Zinc and Oils of Evening Primrose or Borage.

Every individual is different and different herbs may be required. For a more customized approach to your allergies, consult your local Medical Herbalist.

*James Christian is a fully qualified Medical Herbalist who runs an Organic Herbal Medicine Clinic and Dispensary at the James Bay Community Project. If you have any questions about Holistic Health and Healing Herbs, please feel free to email James at medicalherbalist@yahoo.ca, call 250 920 8351, or check the website - www.askaherbalist.ca. James has a sliding fee scale and offers discounts to students, seniors and low-income individuals.*



photo: Janine Bandcroft - of a piece found in an art shop on Portland’s funky Alberta St. - www.portlandneighborhood.com/alberta-street.html

Bottom line:  
BC has no protection for endangered species!

By Richard Boyce

WILDLIFE ACT SHOULD INCLUDE PROTECTION

Over the course of many years of local hiking I have sighted many of the endangered and threatened animal species on Vancouver Island including: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, Surf Scoter, Bald Eagle, Red-legged Frog, Turkey Vulture, Northern Goshawk, Western Screech-Owl, Vancouver Island Pygmy-Owl, Vancouver Island Marmot, Sea Otter, Humpback Whale, Killer Whale, Gray Whale, Roosevelt Elk, Vancouver Island White-tailed Ptarmigan, and Marbled Murrelet.

While some of these species may be sighted regularly in the Oceanside area, their numbers are none-the-less dwindling. The fact that they still exist in numbers in this region makes it all the more important for local residents to become aware of these species, vulnerabilities and work towards protecting them. Almost all of these vertebrates are endangered due to increased human activities such as logging and housing developments.

The federal government through Environment Canada established the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) This committee of experts assesses and designates which wild species are in some danger of disappearing from Canada. These species are protected by the Species at Risk Act (SARA), which was brought into effect in 2001. The website allows easy identification of species that residents have concerns about: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca.

Here in British Columbia the provincial government does not provide a great deal of protection for endangered species, in fact the Wildlife Act reads more like a directory for hunters and fishers. This act has not seen major amendments in the past 25 years. Today the BC government, under the leadership of Minister of Environment Barry Penner, is working on a new Wildlife Act for introduction in the Legislature in 2008.

Some of the planned changes include charging fees to tourism operators for wildlife viewings, and will provide provisions for issues such as invasive species, wildlife diseases, and activities such as eco-tourism. According to a government press release the new Act must support the ‘New Relationship’ and agreements with First Nations.

To date the BC Liberals have re-opened trophy hunting of Grizzly Bears since 2001, introduced a spring hunt of Black Bears and Cougars since 2003, and allowed Golden Eagles to be shot by contractors at Mount Washington. It is important to remember that the voters of this province firmly support a ban on trophy hunting. Shooting animals, while they are introducing their young to the world, has always been frowned upon by the public. Simply renaming a hunt as a ‘cull’ does not change the fact that tracking down hunters who deal in bear parts is made all that more difficult by extending the hunt by several months in the spring.

While the government is making changes to the Wildlife Act it would seem like an opportune time to include the needs of endangered species and afford them some protection. Input has been requested by Minister of Environment Barry Penner env.minister@gov.bc.ca and the Wildlife Act Review Project, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment PO Box 9374 STN PROV GOVT Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M4 Fax: (250) 387-0239 E-Mail: WildlifeActReview@gov.bc.ca



*Richard Boyce is a documentary filmmaker and photo-journalist who has spent his life on Vancouver Island. www.islandlens.blogspot.com*

UN adopts treaty on native rights

*Whatever happened to the Canada I loved? Maybe I imagined it? A place where we acknowledged other people’s rights. I know we never came close to doing the right thing, but I did believe we might get there some day.*

Sue Stroud

[editor’s note: did i miss the referendum?]

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted a non-binding declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples after 22 years of debate. The treaty sets down protections for the human rights of native peoples, and for their land and resources.

It passed despite opposition from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. They said it was incompatible with their own laws.

There are estimated to be 370 million indigenous people in the world. They include the Innu tribe in Canada, the Bushmen of Botswana and Australia’s Aborigines. The General Assembly passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with 143 countries voting in favour, four voting against, and 11 abstaining.



From The Boondocks: To “Serve and Protect” Whom?

By Ceritanne

On August 20 and 21, 2007, a group of businessmen along with the Prime Minister of Canada, the President of the United States and the President of Mexico, held a behind closed-doors “North American Leaders’ Summit” in Montebello, Quebec to discuss the so-called Security and Prosperity Partnership. Exasperated over the lack of transparency and democratic accountability, police savvy citizens (mostly union leaders and social activists) set up a peaceful demonstration demanding that the SPP agreement be submitted for debate and votes in each country’s legislature.



Now, keep in mind that any aware citizen is fully cognizant of the fact that police regularly infiltrate citizen gatherings and demonstrations. The haunting definition, “brownshirts” of the 1920s Hitler era comes to mind where undercover cops, “brownshirts,” were instructed to disrupt the meetings of political opponents and protect Der Fuehrer. How similar in comparison to the current event of March 20th, 2007 when undercover cops disguised in camouflage pants, black t-shirts, leather gloves, with rock in hand and wearing bandanas over their faces, impersonating radical hard-core anarchists, tried to stir peaceful demonstrators into rioting. Modern-day “brownshirts,” agents provocateurs? (1)

When the President of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Dave Coles, courageously fingered the impersonators, calling them out as cops and agents provocateurs, the entire event was captured on video right down to the impersonators working their way back to the riot police lines as if seeking protection and an escape route. Later, when questioned by the media, both the QPP and the RCMP denied altogether any of their officers were involved. They lied.

With the proof caught on video, Quebec provincial police were forced to change their previous denouncement and “admit Thursday that three undercover agents were playing the part of protestors at this week’s international summit in Montebello, Que.” (2)

“Playing the part of protestors?” Is it not a crime under the Criminal Code of Canada to impersonate with the intention of causing disadvantage or harm to others? Is it not fraudulent misrepresentation, deceit and falsehood to act under false pretenses? Does not the Rule of Law apply equally to all regardless of their position in life, whether they are a cop, politician or citizen?

In fact, the Canadian Criminal Code defines the charge of impersonation as:

Personation with Intent

403. Every one who fraudulently personates any person, living or dead,
- (a) with intent to gain advantage for himself or another person,
  - (b) with intent to obtain any property or an interest in any property, or
  - (c) with intent to cause disadvantage to the person whom he personates or another person, is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or an offence punishable on summary conviction.
- R.S., 1985, c. C-46, s. 403; 1994, c. 44, s. 27.

With the Rule of Law in full focus is it unreasonable for citizens to question the validity of police impersonating “with intent to cause disadvantage” and wonder if the reverse circumstance were true, where a citizen was impersonating a police officer, would they not be quickly brought before a court of law and charged? It should not be left to fellow policemen to determine whether these “undercover” cops were committing criminals acts or not, but it is up to a court of law. And, citizens should not be left to ponder and/or question the double standard implied when the Rule of Law is seriously bent.

What does the Rule of Law mean? “It means that everyone is subject to the law; that no one, no matter how important or powerful, is above the law — not the government; not the Prime Minister, or any other Minister; not the Queen or the Governor General or any Lieutenant-Governor; not the most powerful bureaucrat; not the armed forces; not Parliament itself, or any provincial legislature... If anyone were above the law, none of our liberties would be safe.” (3)

Cops, posing as protestors, Agents provocateurs, are hard infiltrators. Hard infiltration is the attempt to disrupt, subvert, provoke, prevent or otherwise interfere with a citizen’s right to protest. Agents provocateurs belong to a police state. Civilized societies outlaw them and, if created by a rogue police force, prosecute them vigorously in order to defend democracy.

The right to peaceful protest is a cornerstone of our democratic society. Impersonation is not.

- (1) [www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/GERsa.htm](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/GERsa.htm)
- (2) [www.thestar.com/News/Canada/article/249291](http://www.thestar.com/News/Canada/article/249291)
- (3) [www.parl.gc.ca/information/library/ldb/forsey/rule\\_of\\_law\\_01-e.asp](http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/library/ldb/forsey/rule_of_law_01-e.asp)

Final Musings on Canada’s Role in Afghanistan

from Don Startin (previous musings are in the archives at [relativenewz.ca](http://relativenewz.ca))

A concerned lady from a G8 nation went to Pakistan to tour the refugee camps. While visiting a school for girls, she asked the teacher to set the students an assignment, which was to write a short passage on peace. One nine year old girl wrote, “Peace is a beautiful bird that never flies in the skies above Afghanistan.”

Indeed, a settlement in Afghanistan seems as elusive as ever. As events unfold it behooves us all to keep a close eye on our legislators in Ottawa to let them know our views on the war. The recent double parade in Quebec City where the anti-war protesters marched alongside the soldiers taking part in a send off march was truly magnificent.

In closing my series I am going to leave you with two books and a song.

For an in depth understanding of the country try [The Story Teller’s Daughter](#) by Saira Shah. She is the daughter of an eminent Sufi writer called Idries Shah. The family got stuck in England during World War II so he lost his estates outside Kabul. He instilled into his daughter a very upper crustian and romanticized version of Afghanistan, and she learned to speak Persian (Iranian) at home. Persian will get you by in Afghanistan. However, in other respects, she was a well educated young English lady who gravitated into journalism. Her life among the Afghan refugees in Peshawar, and her two journeys into Afghanistan, make exciting reading. On one of them she helped make the film ‘Beneath the Veil’ a description of womens’ life under the Taliban, which was recently shown at Cinecenta. Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the quotations of Rumi, possibly the greatest Sufi writer of all time, who was himself an Afghan, and spent much of his life in exile fleeing from the Mongols. This book gave me an intuitive feeling for Afghanistan. Her portrayal of the status of women under the Taliban indicates that if it ever forms the government again women would indeed be in trouble. This fact alone gives our hawks an unassailable argument for staying in Afghanistan indefinitely. But there might be a way around this.

The second book is [I is for Infidel](#) by Kathy Gannon. Kathy is a Robert Fiskean Canadian lady who was the Associated Press correspondent in Afghanistan and Pakistan from 1986-2005. She was the only western reporter in Kabul during the dispersal of the Taliban in 2001. She explains how the Pakistani military hate the U.S.A. because it failed to supply them with ammunition in their two wars with India. Two defeats disgraced the military. She also explains how the I.S.I., Pakistan’s intelligence service, helped the Taliban get organized and supplied them with money and arms plus facilitated their training camps in northern Pakistan. She gives us a very good backgrounder on Mullah Omar, the head man in the Taliban, who comes over as a man strong on listening to his supporters, and not one to act

precipitously. For an excellent chronology of the wars, go to Wikipedia.org, search ‘war in Afghanistan’ and check the casualty figures - always interesting. But what to do about ending the war? It is fast becoming Canada’s Vietnam. Unhappily, although we have borne the brunt of the war when compared to our NATO allies, we are very small potatoes when it comes to policy making in Afghanistan. I am an armchair commentator; reasonably well read on the subject, but have never been to that unhappy place so what I say must be taken with a fistful of salt. Why not a conference of all parties concerned including Al Qaeda and the Taliban to be held in a nice neutral place like Greenland. The aim of this conference would be to set up a government of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Religious tolerance, womens’ rights, civil rights, a cessation of blood feuds, and an enhanced war crimes amnesty should certainly be on the agenda. There are, I’m sure, many more things that should be in it.

For those of us uneasily living in the thrall of two neoliberal (fascist) governments, we can start by studying Sufism which is the mystical side of Islam. You don’t have to be a Muslim to be a Sufi. Then we have to work on our soldiers and ourselves. We have to demilitarize - not easy!

I will end by reminding readers of Buffy Sainte-Marie’s classic song ‘The Universal Soldier.’ That sterling Victoria activist, Rose Henry, knows Buffy personally, and she tells me this song is banned in the USA! Learn the tune, learn the words, teach them to your kids, play it on your guitar to whoever will listen. We must try and turn off the supply of cannon fodder for the imperial wars of our neighbours to the south. If we meddling crusaders could only vacate Afghanistan with a rock solid peace in place, maybe, just maybe, the bird of peace will once more be seen in the skies of that unfortunate country.

*Don Startin is an activist and gardener, an ex-military man who has done many things since leaving the army. Don currently lives a life of simplicity with his wife in Victoria, B.C.*

*editor’s apology: Don submitted this article for August’s newspaper, but my fail proof filing system failed. On the plus side, I’m able to print this photo of Buffy St. Marie and Mary Gauthier at the Edmonton Folk Festival, August 2007. I can’t reprint the song as it’s copyrighted, but available online.*





# Anarchy 101

by Tricia Dower

originally published at:

[canadian-writers-collective.blogspot.com/2007/09/anarchy-101.html](http://canadian-writers-collective.blogspot.com/2007/09/anarchy-101.html)

If anarchist Emma Goldman made it into my high school history texts, she probably found it hostile territory. In those days, criticizing capitalist values and fomenting dissent was more dangerous than admitting you thought about sex. Anarchistic principles were linked to communism, and communism was the scariest monster under your bed.



Until the Second Annual Victoria Anarchists Book Fair, I had not revisited the beliefs I formed about anarchism way back when. But there I was, among mostly younger folks, many bearing multiple bodily piercings and t-shirts with defiant or satiric messages. We participated in workshops about conditioned obedience vs. free will, pirate radio, the poetic tactics of shock and surprise, challenging colonial mentalities, non-violence and eco-defense. The printed program cautioned against taking photographs without explicit permission. It’s still not safe to be openly anti-authoritarian. Terrorism, not communism, is now hiding under that bed and in the closet, as well.

As only fitting for a book fair, literature was available for sale or barter in one huge room at the event site. Noam Chomsky, Arundhati Roy and Howard Zinn were three author names I recognized. Canada’s Arsenal Pulp Press, Black Cat Press, Fun is Free Press, Red Lion Press and Spartacus Books were there. You could find something on almost any topic supporting the event’s stated values of “mutual aid, direct democracy, direct action, anti-authoritarianism, autonomy and solidarity” or opposing “capitalism, imperialism, patriarchy, heterosexism, racism, colonialism, statism and all other forms of oppression.” Also available were patches, t-shirts and hats offering messages to suit your own brand of rebellion: Thinking is unpatriotic. Revolt. Disrupt. Cops rule. Property is theft. Remember when racism ended?

My primary motivation for attending was to gather research for a story I’m writing. (Is there ever another reason? I’m pathetic.) But as I took notes, some of the concepts started to make sense. I am loath to even jaywalk yet I began to see the logic in more rebellious positions. Why should media conglomerates decide who gets to speak or perform on radio? There’s plenty of room on the airwaves. Why should large corporations have the right to damage our environment while those who try to stop them are branded criminals?

An intense discussion ensued during the workshop on non-violence. “Violence is not effective in achieving anarchist goals,” the facilitator stated. When he made a grudging exception for self-defense, one woman spoke emotionally about her belief that fighting what the “system” does to us is self-defense. A man who had been imprisoned said violence inflicted by the government against him had been quite effective in limiting his resistance. Others were similarly passionate, and I recalled a younger self who railed against injustice and experienced genuine grief at the suffering of others. Exactly when did those ideals transmogrify into don’t make waves...work within the system...get along...keep your nose clean...mind your own business?

I like to think of myself as a defender of the defenseless, but what do I actually do besides pontificate in privileged comfort? How bad would injustice and oppression have to get for me to risk imprisonment or death by defiant action? Would I have stood before that tank at Tian’anmen Square?

I don’t want to answer those questions.

*Tricia Dower lives and writes in Victoria. You can see excerpts from her published short stories at [tricia-dower.blogspot.com](http://tricia-dower.blogspot.com)*

Photo: A determined looking 21-year-old Emma Goldman in New York, 1890, by Komow and Landa photographers.

## Dear Couz,

Today I want to tell you about someone whom I didn’t know well at all but someone whom I considered a friend.

Last winter was the first time that I noticed Marlene selling the Streetnewz outside Thrifty’s Store. Her rather shy smile, plus the newspapers in her hand, led me to buy a newspaper from her.

What I so enjoyed about Marlene was her openness...more and more I believe that life is too short for small talk. It wasn’t that we talked about anything serious. However, one day she said to me in her usual, uncertain way, “I can’t drink anymore.”

“Neither can I,” I smirked, in my usual way. We both had a giggle. When I said that not being able to drink happens to most of us oldies, she was quick to point out that SHE was an alcoholic. Of course, none of us who are educated and middle class are alkies, right, Couz? At worst, we just have a small, emotional problem, right? Do pardon my sarcasm, Couz, it just bugs me how society changes its label depending on who is being labeled...

Over the next few months, I chatted with Marlene each time the newspaper came out. Always, it seemed to be a dark, rainy afternoon when I saw her selling the papers. Always, she would have to stand on the cement in order to be noticed by the public so that she could make a sale.

The small change that I chose to give her for a copy of the newspaper became bigger and bigger, as we chatted back and forth over the months. I realized that she was an open, genuine person, so different from many people that I meet in my travels.

When I finally decided to get the newspaper mailed to me, I gave her a \$5.00 tip and explained that I would not be buying from her anymore. Marlene just smiled, in her usual, uncertain way. I had made my decision to try to write for the Streetnewz, and I wanted to make sure that I got a copy of each month’s newspaper. Still, however, I used to go and chat with Marlene, asking her how business was going. Still, she would say that not many people were buying the newspaper.

One day I discovered that Marlene was not there. Why not? Perhaps she’d quit selling the paper, I thought to myself. Worried, I asked another seller on Douglas Street.

“Nope, Marlene’s on the way out,” he said, matter-of-factly. “WHAT?” said I. He must be mistaken. Marlene is probably just feeling sad and the doctors will treat her somehow.

At first I was shocked at the seller’s matter-of-fact approach to Marlene’s situation. Then, I realized that if you live on the street, it is necessary to distance yourself from another person’s sadness. If you don’t do that, you can end up making it worse for yourself. I guess that we can all learn from that: it’s not that we don’t care, it is just that we can’t do anything about it.

Marlene died a few weeks ago, Couz. Apparently it was a serious illness. I think that it was also sadness. And you know what, Couz? I never bothered to go and see her in the hospital. I assumed that she was merely depressed. It’s too late now. I lost a friend, someone who gave me a chuckle and someone who was struggling to live off that measly tip that we and a few others used to give her for the paper.

I am beginning to think that Marlene also died of poverty. Our health services only cover the basics. Anything else that we need we must pay for. All the extras that we can buy, whether it is a service like physiotherapy or a heating pad or whatever, are not available to someone who doesn’t have any money.

Marlene stood on cement all day, selling her newspapers. That’s hard on the feet, to say nothing of the soul.

Finally, how come I, obviously not in poverty,

will often get better service from our so-called universal medical care system than someone like Marlene gets? I am sad, to-day, Couz. All of us, not just the middle class, need to be respected and given care so that we can heal from life’s wounds.

Let’s cheer ourselves up, Couz, with thoughts about the Maoris, ‘way down there in New Zealand.

The big government museums are free in New Zealand, so this meant that we could visit them as many times as we wanted to. Lots of Maoris are employed to make sure that we will get their story straight. Also, there are huge, exciting Maori cultural centres in Rotorua and Waitangi on their northern island.

The Maoris apparently arrived in New Zealand as late as the 14th century—actually, no one is sure about the time. Rumours are that they displaced another native group in New Zealand. The museum people over there are rather vague on that idea.



‘Natch, Couz, I was asking questions: Did the Maoris “get rid of” former cultures there? What happens to first Nations’ people is always a huge interest for me!

The museums and books told us that the Maoris came from some south sea islands near Fiji. Regardless of where they came from, it was a long, well planned journey, taking months in their large, skookum canoes.

They settled along the coastlines. When the Paheka—that’s what they call us white guys--also began coming to New Zealand, the Maoris were quick to take on the Paheka system of tearing down the landscape and replacing the natural growth with sheep and crops.

Eventually the Maoris became fed up with the European drunken sailors and others who settled down on their land. They called for help from the Brits who decided to draw up a Treaty.

Well, Couz, calling in the Brits proved to be a mistake: The Treaty was not signed by all of the Maori tribes in 1840. And as soon as it was signed, arguments began happening: What was signed, exactly? Who didn’t sign? Why not?

Also, Couz, it seems that there was a major difference between what the Brits thought of as ownership and what the Maoris thought of as tribal ownership. Oh oh, does this idea not sound familiar? It does to me!

Today, I see differences of opinion as to what the white man thinks and what Native people all over the world think about land ownership. It remains a huge issue, even in our tiny part of the world. Furthermore, I believe that Native peoples’ idea of group ownership—or even the idea of giving back some of their land is NOT respected by a whole bunch of us new-comers today.

More of this stuff next time I write to you, Couz. I will also give you my thoughts on the Maoris today, as we saw them on our recent travels.

*Love, Jen.*



In praise of old women

Bring me the old woman  
with the lines  
that mark the beauty  
of her life  
and I'll celebrate  
each etching  
as the gulley left  
by a single tear or  
a veritable torrent  
of joy  
or sadness.

She is the queen  
of her domain,  
the breadth  
and the depth  
of her kingdom  
mapped by the lines  
on her face.

by Jennifer Louise Taylor



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Lost Continents

displaced, misplaced  
a stain in the world  
the african sounds ring in my head  
and I am a lost continent  
my tribe left behind in the Wal-Mart  
(somewhere between the Post-it notes and Britney  
Spears Cds)  
I am a lost continent  
my car turns in circles in the parking lot  
never exiting  
people mill by  
oblivious to the rattles and djembes  
in my nerves  
my eyelashes  
I am a collapsing continent  
sinking into white America  
shopping malls and superstores  
super sizes  
shrunk values  
the music music exiting through my toes  
trampled beneath  
the feet  
of a million out of  
step  
Nikes.



Nicole Moyal

Old man and his memories

He said that he was a sailor  
and that he had done some flying in the air.  
He said that once he was living in the mountains  
where he came face to face with a big bear.  
He said that he had some children  
but he did not see them for many years.  
And that reminiscing will always  
bring him to his tears.  
Life suddenly will get lonely  
lonely as life can be.  
Some people for the forest  
can not see a single tree.  
Old man and his memories  
did begin to seek a new friend.  
Just someone willing to listen  
without laughing in the end.  
Someone willing to listen  
without laughing in the end.

© Miroslav Vlcek 2007

This The Place Of The Furry Guru

This the place of the Furry Guru  
the back window fluffy dog on string  
rent-a-poet on a bus  
a wind-up penguin with a brush  
the West Coast Rasputin  
smoking pot seeing spaceships in the sun ...  
can't you see spot-dog spot-dog run?  
Ah had a beer with Ra-Ra Rasputin  
at the security check near the ferry dock

sand poured from his hands like diamonds-  
He was winding back the clock  
with his mind we were back in Eden  
eating grapes and talking to green pigeons  
attempting space walks with Amour de Cosmos  
and Brother X ...  
Bring on the beards  
the hurtling herds of deep sheep sleep in pews in malls  
and all them seers  
they all got leers  
with potting clay they dry their tears.  
And the grannies in see-through plastic Macs  
all look so queer  
séancing and dancing ho ho  
down at sewage seeping Mile Zero.  
It's the weather one supposes  
no snow just roses  
in the minus 40 weather it is hard for Moses  
can't do modern Jesus poses  
This is the place of the \$25 Anarchist  
Buying \$25 books at the anarchist show  
How do I know?  
Well - I was there  
And do I care?  
Well - no

So thanks a lot for the green beer talk  
And the very green milk shakes a lot  
I know I know - cause I was there  
Off with Jesus and Zeus and Boudicca too ...  
All the desperate out of date churches  
Replaced by some human socially real zoo  
lurching from one out of day fact  
to another they got to fill that pew.  
Now that we've privatized government  
We got to recreate our own personal firmament.

© Paul Burnside



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years, has survived  
thanks to the warmth  
and generosity of  
those who offer him  
food and buy his  
poetry.

If you'd like to  
contribute to Paul's  
dental fund (he'd  
really like a new  
front tooth), please  
donate directly to  
his account (it's  
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Burnside) at Cool  
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Street Newz is sold by a very important team of licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspapers for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation, to encourage a sliding-scale economy that's inclusive and offers people a choice.

### Wanna Help?

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Janine at 383-5144 ext 0137 or drop in to the Solstice Cafe (529 Pandora) most Fridays 10-noon.

Maybe you can help

- \* with office stuff?
- \* with outreach to community and church groups?



John



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Ken



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Ted & Bok



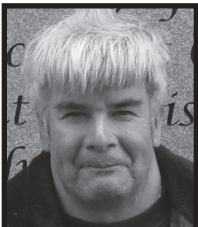
John



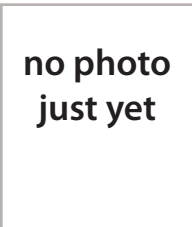
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## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Vendors pay 50 cents for each Street Newz. Together, this pays for the Street Newz printing costs.



Anything you give, in excess of 50 cents, goes directly to the low income vendor who works to distribute the paper.

### Vendor Wish List

please call 383-5144 ext 0137  
ear muffs, toques, gloves,  
scarves, warm socks,  
holeless boots,  
long johns, umbrellas

### Behind the Scenez

Street Newz is a project of the Bread and Roses Collective - a registered not-for profit society. Its purpose is to support educational and employment opportunities for socially disadvantaged and/or economically marginalized people, provide information about and support community organizations concerned with the relief of poverty and the promotion of public education, and support and encourage community based artistic endeavours that enhance our collective quality of life.

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*A special Thank You to the Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation who wrote:*

#### A Charitable Donation to Your Programme

I am the Chair of the Board of the Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Victoria. This is a small congregation of about 50 members and numerous friends.

Out of a desire to contribute to the community at large, we have started a project whereby we give a percentage of our collection to a different charity each month. This kind of programme is in place in several Unitarian congregations across Canada. Charities are suggested by our members and selected as making an important difference in peoples' lives.

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$110 to be used as you see fit for the good of your programme.

We have no expectation of any particular response. However, any comments you do provide will be gratefully shared with our members during one of our services.

### THE SNZ BOOKS

#### Street Newz Revenue

	July	Aug	Sept
Paper Sales (from vendors)	510.00	600.00	570.00
Donations	125.00	130.00	131.00
Gifts (incl in-kind)	0.00	200.00	225.00
Advertising	125.00	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions	155.00	35.00	280.00
Workshops	80.00	0.00	0.00
Bread & Roses Donation	700.00	1036.20	700.00
<b>Total Coordinator's Revenue</b>	<b>1695.00</b>	<b>2001.20</b>	<b>1906.00</b>

#### Street Newz Expenses

	July	Aug	Sept
Salaries	700.00	700.00	700.00
Paper & Printing Costs	571.34	571.34	571.34
Office expenses/website	16.00	36.00	200.00
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	98.60	84.56	85.41
Vendor t-shirts	0.00	336.20	0.00
<b>Total Coordinator's Expenses</b>	<b>1385.94</b>	<b>1728.10</b>	<b>1556.75</b>

#### Street Newz

309.06 273.10 349.25

#### Bread & Roses Revenue

	July	Aug	Sept
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Bread &amp; Roses Revenue</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

#### Bread & Roses Expenses

	July	Aug	Sept
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	40.50	40.50	40.50
Street Newz Donation	700.00	1036.20	700.00
<b>Total Bread &amp; Roses Expenses</b>	<b>740.50</b>	<b>1076.70</b>	<b>740.50</b>

#### Bread & Roses

-740.50 -1076.70 -740.50

#### Consolidated Ttl (SNZ + B&R)

-431.44 -803.60 -391.25

Bread & Roses Bank Balance 3132.55 2846.18 2076.48

\* A note from the Coordinator: Here's my latest attempt at fiscal transparency. This new format was decided upon after a conversation with the Bread and Roses Collective Treasurer, Landon Downs. You can see that we're not yet entirely self-sustaining, though we're moving in that direction (and hope to get there through increased vendors and sales rather than advertising). We like to maintain diverse funding sources - it allows for editorial autonomy & freedom.

### A HUGE THANK YOU !!

**1800 October Street Newzes are brought to you by:**

#### New or Renewed Subscribers:

**Phil Lyons, the Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Gunnild Fischer, Elizabeth Woods, Shurly Mazerolle, Betty McInnes, Jim Pine**

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#### With Special thanks to:

**John Chomyn and all the vendors and writers, the Bread and Roses Collective, Colin Dower, Brian Mason, Barbara Hay, Vicki, David & the Solstice Cafe staff, Shirley Hollingsworth**

**And anyone else I may have missed - we couldn't do it without you!!**

### INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION

Victoria Street Newz is a proud member of the North American Street Newspaper Association and the International Network of Street Papers. The mission of NASNA is to support a street newspaper movement that creates and upholds journalistic and ethical standards while promoting self-help and empowerment among people living in poverty. INSP is an umbrella organization that provides a consultancy service for its partner papers and advises on the setting up of new street papers and supports initiatives for marginalized people. Visit NASNA at [www.nasna.org](http://www.nasna.org) or the INSP at [www.street-papers.org](http://www.street-papers.org).

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